GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1763
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
BEGGARS CAN T CHOOSE
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Beggars Can`t choose` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated November 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any policy on storing and distributing blood;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether 50% gap between demand and supply of blood is met through imports and blood products sourced from the unregulated sectors basically professional and high-risk donors despite threat of HIV, Hepatitis B and other similar infections;

(f) if so, the details thereof; (g) whether there is any proposal to set up transfusion medicine department in AIIMS/SJH to ensure availability of safe blood at all times; and (h) the total number of blood banks in India and how much population is catered by them, State-wise/Union Territory- wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The article points out that there is shortage of blood in the country and there is a need for augmenting voluntary blood donation. It alsoreports that the system of collection, storage and distribution of blood needs to be streamlined.

(c) & (d) The National Blood Policythat is awaiting government approval deals adequately with the issues of collection, storage and distribution of blood for transfusion. The policy clearly states that all requirements of blood should be met by voluntary unremunerated blood donors and that blood should be used in a rational manner, avoiding wastage. It encourages component separation, quality assurance and centralisation of blood transfusion services in the country.

(e) & (f) There is no overall shortage of blood in the country, however, there could be seasonal and occasional shortages of blood in different parts of the country. Whole blood is not imported into the country, but some blood products are imported after fulfilling all conditions of transfusion safety.

(g) There is already a Department of Transfusion Medicine functioning in AIIMS.

(h) There are 1549 licensed blood banks functioning in the country and State-wise/Union Territory-wise distribution of these blood banks is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEWISE LIST OF APPROVED BLOOD BANKS IN THE COUNTRY

S.No.	STATES	NO. OF APPROVED BLOOD BANKS
1.	Andhra Pradesh	135
2.	A & N Island	2
3.	Assam	31
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
5.	Bihar	50
6.	Chandigarh	3

7	Delhi		37
8	Goa		6
9.	Gujarat		142
10.	Haryana		27
11.	Himachal Pradesh		12
12.	Jammu & Kashmir		11
13.	Karnataka		100
14.	Kerala		106
15.	Madhya Pradesh		78
16.	Maharashtra		234
17.	Meghalaya		2
18.	Manipur		3
19.	Mizoram		5
20.	Nagaland		3
21.	Orissa		55
22.	Pondicherry		7
23.	Punjab		52
24.	Rajasthan		50
25.	Sikkim		1
26.	Tamil Nadu		175
27.	Tripura		5
28.	U.P.		131
29.	West Bengal		83
TOTAL		1549	